

Dear Chairs Haskell and Elliot, Vice Chairs Turco and Flexer, Ranking Members Haines and Witkos, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

My name is Sherry Chen. I am a resident of New Haven and a student at Yale University. I would like to express my strong support for HB 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses.

The campus climate survey requirement and amnesty policy requirement are both extremely important to me, allowing students to confidentially report incidents of sexual violence without the fear of punitive action from their respective universities. The provisions in these bills will allow for universities to act in reaction to the epidemic of sexual violence. The two year survey -- in place of the four year survey -- is also extremely vital, including both graduate and Associate degree students. Additionally, the two year frequency would allow students to share their experiences as their college experience progresses. For example, under a four year frequency I may only provide my insights during my first year, not allowing me to provide insights on my subsequent experiences throughout my years at university. With the already present barriers to reporting and gathering holistic data, this impediment should be of grave concern to members of the General Assembly.

I know that these bills will improve students and survivors lives all across Connecticut. I know that when these bills pass, our state will be a leader in the country, paving the way to make campuses safer and more supportive places for all students.

Thank you all for your time. I strongly support HB 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses, and urge you to favorably vote the bill out of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

Sincerely,

Sherry Chen
New Haven, CT